



Stop TB Partnership



Workshop on

T-Cell Based Diagnosis of Latent Tuberculosis Infection in Resource-Limited Settings

Sponsored by FIND, TDR, WHO, and Stop TB Working Group on New Diagnostics

Dates: 16-17 March 2006

Venue: Ramada Park Hotel, Geneva, Switzerland

For nearly 100 years, there were no alternatives to the tuberculin skin test (TST) for diagnosing latent tuberculosis infection. Because of recent advances in immunology and genomics, for the first time, an alternative has emerged in the form of T-cell based interferon- γ (IFN- γ) assays, a new generation of *in vitro* tests of cellular immunity. All IFN- γ assays measure cell-mediated immune response by quantifying IFN- γ released by T cells in response to stimulation by *M. tuberculosis* antigens. Although early versions of IFN- γ assays used PPD as the stimulating antigen, newer versions use *M. tuberculosis*-specific RD1 antigens such as ESAT-6 and CFP-10. These antigens are less likely to cross-react with BCG substrains and non-tuberculous mycobacteria. Two commercial T-cell based assays are currently available – the QuantiFERON-TB® assay and the T SPOT-TB® assay.

This workshop, sponsored by FIND, TDR/WHO, and the Stop TB Working Group on New Diagnostics, will bring together a group of experts to discuss the research evidence supporting the use of T-cell based assays, their clinical utility, their limitations, and directions for future research, with a specific focus on high burden and resource-limited countries. The proceedings of the workshop will be published and disseminated to serve as a useful resource for researchers and clinicians.

A full program will be circulated soon.

Very limited support will be available for High Endemic Countries relevant participants from the New Diagnostics Working Group of the STOP TB Partnership.

Please note that places are limited. To confirm your participation, please RSVP to laurence.perret@finddiagnostics.org or cunninghamj@who.int, not later than 15 January 2006.

Membership is open for the 4 new subgroups of the New Diagnostics Working Group: **Discovery Research / Diagnostic Trials / Market Entry / Advocacy**. Interested parties, please register with info@finddiagnostics.org or cunninghamj@who.int